## **CLAIMS**

## What is claimed is:

	1. A method comprising:
1	defining a library of available criteria to be used in filtering a
2	population of items to identify items of interest, each criterion having a
3	graphical representation;
4	receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the
5	population as a filter;
6	accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected
7	criterion is to be associated;
8	identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria
9	defining the filter; and
10	displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is
11	constructed.
1	2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2	including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a graphical
3	representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical

- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 2 applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and

representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.

- 3 applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of
- 4 the filter.

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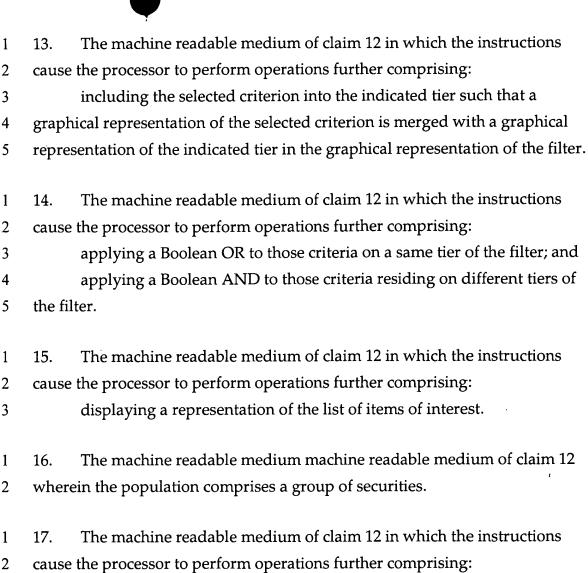
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 2 displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein identifying comprises:
- 2 computing a tally of the list of items of interest.
  - 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

2	displaying the tally of the list of items of interest.
1	7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2	receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;
3	identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the
4	filter at the indicated tier;
5	displaying the group of items.
1 -	8. The method of claim 1 wherein the population comprises a group of
2	securities.
1	9. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria
2	comprises criteria derived from a community of investors.
1	10. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria
2	comprises user customizable filter criteria.
1	11. The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria
2	comprises predefined criteria.
1	12. A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon which
2	when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations
3	comprising:
4	defining a library of criteria to be used in filtering a population of items
5	to identify items of interest, each criterion having a graphical representation;
6	receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the
7	population as a filter;
8	accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected
9	criterion is to be associated;
10	identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria
11	defining the filter; and

displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is

constructed.

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cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:
receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;
identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the
filter at the indicated tier;
displaying the group of items.